

Home News

Electricity generation studies hold promise — professor

By Rima Corthawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Among the research projects conducted at Jordanian universities, "the work currently done on the use of semi-conductors in photovoltaic cells for the generation of electricity is highly recommended for its promising outcome in the not-too-distant future" according to Riyad Ahmad Bitar, physics professor at the University of Jordan.

The Higher Council for Sciences and Technology (HCST) is seriously studying the possibility of allocating funds to support the project. Dr. Bitar said, especially because of the industrial and economic benefits expected from the acquisition of such advanced technology.

For more than three decades, major private and governmental institutions in the U.S. have been consistently supporting and implementing continuous research on the use of semi-conductors in "clean" energy conversion procedure, as well as for other applications, according to Dr. Bitar.

The importance of this process is that the solar energy used is "renewable," unlike fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas, which are finite.

"It is to our greatest advantage to be able to provide easy access of the technology to develop alternatives for energy production," Dr. Bitar said.

Photovoltaic cells utilise semi-conducting materials to convert solar energy directly into electricity and without the outlet of any environmentally unfriendly by-products such as are evolved from the burning of fossil fuels for electricity, Dr. Bitar explained.

"Our main aim since the start of the project, a year and few months ago, has been to know the technology for producing thin film semiconductor materials (specifically cadmium telluride) to result in efficient and economic conversion," Dr. Bitar said.

Theoretically, cadmium telluride absorbs sunlight effectively, giving 28 per cent

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Anstas Hanania laid to rest

AMMAN (Petra) — Former minister Anstas Hanania, who passed away Thursday at the age of 92, was laid to rest at the Um Al Hiran cemetery on Friday. Born in Jerusalem in 1903, Mr. Hanania assumed senior government posts, including cabinet minister, member of the Upper House of Parliament for several years, vice president of the Reconstruction Council and Jordan's ambassador to Britain. Mr. Hanania is survived by his son and daughters Dr. Daoud Hanania, Mai, Leen, Lula and Meir.

Rain, thunderstorms predicted

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cold front is expected to affect the country as of today. The Meteorology Department anticipates rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms in many parts of the Kingdom. The cold front will continue until Sunday evening, according to the Meteorology Department. Temperatures are expected to rise again on Monday until the end of the week. Temperatures for tonight and tomorrow will drop by 6 to 7 degrees Centigrade, lower than the normal average for this season.

New telephone information system introduced

AMMAN (Petra) — A new computerised telephone directory was introduced by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC). Minister of Postal Affairs and Communications Jamal Sarireh, who is also chairman of the Board of Directors of the TCC, inaugurated the service on Thursday at the downtown Amman Telecommunications Building. The service will enable citizens and companies to inquire about subscribers' telephone numbers by dialing 121. TCC officials will be able to answer such inquiries in a short time by using the computerised systems.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Vocalist Coleen Erickson and Pianist Sharon Stewart at the Aqaba Gulf Hotel, Aqaba, at 7:00 p.m. (the week includes exhibits and papershows featuring the USA, video programmes and electronic dialogue).
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hamoud Chantout at the Balaq Art Gallery, Fuheis.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Yousef Badawi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Ahmad Al Babil and Mohammad Ali at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of books dealing with Arab and Islamic subjects at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by 'Aba' Ammousa and oil paintings by Salman 'Abbas at Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Mimira Al Tunisiya at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Qassab Bashi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing a permanent exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Exhibition of women's abstract artists entitled "The World Through the Eyes of Women" at Baladina Art Gallery.

Princess Basma chairs Arab delegates meeting

NEW YORK (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma chaired a meeting here for the official Arab delegations taking part in the preparatory committee meeting for the U.N. world conference on women. The meeting held at Princess Basma's initiative on Thursday sought to crystallise an official Arab stand towards the draft work plan which the world conference will discuss in Beijing in September.

The delegations stressed

the importance of coordinating Arab stands at the conference, particularly in relation to the United Nations Convention on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, which contains some articles which contravene provisions of Islamic law.

The meeting also discussed a working paper presented by the Jordanian delegation, including remarks and amendments to the conference's work plan.

The remarks and amend-

ments are in line with the Arab plan of action, adopted by the regional Arab conference, held in Amman in November 1994.

Participants approved the formation of an inter-Arab contact group, which will be entrusted with coordinating Arab stands during the Beijing conference.

The committee groups Jordan, which will play a coordinating role, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan and Algeria.

Jordanian, Iraqi federations of chambers of commerce sign accord

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Jordanian and Iraqi federations of chambers of commerce have signed an agreement which provides for enhancing economic and commercial ties as well as trade exchange between Jordanian and Iraqi businessmen and commercial establishments.

President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad, who is currently heading a 36-member business delegation to Iraq, Friday said the agreement stipulates exchanging information on the two countries' economies, foreign trade, laws governing economic and trade activities and publications.

Mr. Murad, who signed the agreement on the Jordanian side with his Iraqi counterpart Zuhair Abdul Ghafour Younis, said the agreement calls for increasing the trade exchange between the two countries, opening new scopes of economic cooperation between private sector institutions and provides for

exchanging visits by trade delegations to study prospects of launching ventures.

It also encourages businessmen from both countries to launch joint ventures and facilitates the movement of production elements — personnel, funds, commodities and vehicles — between the two countries in accordance with active laws, Mr. Murad said.

He added that the two sides agreed to hold periodic meetings alternately in Amman and Baghdad to review and follow-up the implementation of the agreement's provisions.

The agreement, he noted, will be active for one year and can be automatically renewed unless one of the two parties expresses the desire to terminate it.

He said the delegation, which left for Baghdad Sunday, met with several senior Iraqi officials, including the ministers of trade and health.

Mr. Murad said members of the delegation also held

separate meetings with Iraqi businessmen to conclude bilateral deals with them.

Discussions with Iraqi officials and business also focused on means of promoting Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in economic and commercial fields, Mr. Murad said.

The talks also dealt with the international economic summit which will be held in Amman in October with the participation of businessmen and investors from all over the world.

He said the Jordanian delegation extended invitations to Iraqi investors to participate in the Amman summit.

In addition, the Jordanian team briefed Iraqi businessmen on measures taken by the Income Tax Department to introduce laws that promote investments.

He said the Jordanian federation will provide the Iraqi private sector federations and organisations with copies of these laws as soon as they are finalised.

'Jordan, Israel hope to conclude treaty sectoral agreements soon'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Negotiations on sectoral agreements between Jordan and Israel are proceeding well and both sides hope to conclude the agreements on time as called for their Oct. 26 peace agreement, the head of the Jordanian side to a panel supervising the implementation of the treaty said Friday.

Hani Al Mulqi, president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), also said that a committee related to the Jordanian-American-Israeli trilateral commission will meet in Amman on April 3 for a review of progress towards implementation of projects in the Jordan Rift Valley and other related issues.

Dr. Mulqi said Jordanian and Israeli officials would meet one day ahead of the trilateral meeting to review the issues before the commission.

He noted that a company contracted by World Bank

was preparing tender documents related to the projects proposed in a programme for Jordan Rift Valley development jointly drawn up by Jordan, the United States and Israel.

The trilateral meeting in turn will prepare for a broader workshop to be held in Amman in late April. That conference will include regional experts as well as the private sector since concrete projects and related feasibility studies with private sector participation are expected to be reviewed at the forum.

The workshop is also part of Jordan's preparations for the Amman economic summit to be held in October.

The joint committee supervising the implementation of

the treaty met in the northern Israeli town of Be'er Sheva on Thursday under the chairmanship of Dr. Mulqi on the Jordanian side and Eliakim Rubinstein on the Israeli side and reviewed progress made by the separate negotiating groups.

The peace treaty calls for three types of accords; the first to be concluded in three months after the ratification of the peace treaty on Nov. 10. These were already signed on Feb. 9 at the Baqoura area in the north. The second are to be concluded in six months i.e. a deadline of May 10, and others to be signed in nine months i.e. Aug. 10.

"The negotiations are proceeding well, and both sides hope that we would be able to conclude the accords in time as scheduled in the peace treaty," Dr. Mulqi told the Jordan Times. He referred specific questions to the officials under discussions to the officials directly involved.

According to sources, Jordan and Israel have made some progress towards settling some of their differences in a trade accord, but outstanding issues involve Israeli reluctance to offer preferential treatment to some Jordanian products in view of the disparity in the economies of the two countries.

However, the sources said, Jordan was optimistic that the differences could be settled.

Reporting Thursday's meeting, where the trade accord was discussed, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said "the two sides made suggestions whereby Jordanian trade and industry can enjoy preferential treatment in the Israeli market."

Minister of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Dr. Mohammad Smadi is leading the Jordanian side to the negotiations on trade. The talks will resume in Aqaba on April 2.

Also reviewed Thursday

were draft accords on the environment and transport. Again, details were not immediately available, but, according to the sources, the transport accord is largely completed but is awaiting an agreement between the civil aviation authorities of the two countries.

An accord on air corridors between the aviation authorities was made this month, under which Royal Jordanian started using Israeli airspace. The accord is applicable for a two-month trial period, which ends around the same time that the two sides are obliged to conclude a firm transport accord that would cover civil aviation.

All draft accords will be presented to the two governments for approval before being formally signed.



Hani Al Mulqi

Medical association prepares for elections Candidates split over role of politics in JMA

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Preparations for elections, in April 7 of the president and the 10-member council of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) are proceeding amid controversy over the association's role and function, with members divided over whether the association should play a political role or concentrate strictly on its professional duties.

The controversy surfaced when His Majesty King Hussein, in his January letter of designation to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, admonished Jordanian professional trade associations and unions to adhere to their primary role as guardians and defenders of their members' professional interests, but also at a time when the envisaged process of normalisation with Israel forces a political issue on its professional duties.

In the forefront of those

defending the association's right to a political stand and activity is candidate Bassam Dajani, current vice-president of JMA and the candidate of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), who in an interview with the Jordan Times portrayed this issue as the highest on his agenda.

Against the involvement of the association in politics are the two independent candidates, Haider Madani and Ghazi Ibrahim.

According to Dr. Ibrahim, there is a widespread mood prevailing among doctors that the association should distance itself from politics.

He added that the association's political influence should, if at all, derive from its professional clout.

According to Dr. Dajani, party politics have for the last 40 years interfered with the professional interests of the association's members, leading to a deterioration in the professional situation of

many doctors.

In one respect, professional and political concerns do meet. An important professional argument against normalisation is the fear that "medical tourists" patients from other countries who visit Jordan for medical treatment and who constitute between 25 per cent and 35 per cent of all patients treated in the private sector — would —

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the association's branches in Jordan's major cities as well as representatives of medical specialists' societies from within the association.

The JMA has 7,521 members, 6,596 of which are practising physicians, and 4,800 of which — all those who had paid their dues by the March 10, 1995 deadline — are eligible to vote in the coming elections.

Another project proposed in this context is the creation of a hospital where members of the association as well as their families can be treated at low costs. Revenues from this hospital, which would be open to the public, would in turn help to swell the association's coffers.

In an attempt to ensure more effective participation by members in the association's decision-making process, several candidates propose the establishment of a "medical parliament," which would include the heads of

other important issues

of the association.

Several steps that the government should adopt to nurture the process.

These included a broad "piece-by-piece" dialogue among all sectors of the society to find out their perceptions of change. "It is important to know what they want," said Mr. Abinader.

Is it employment? Is it protection of local industries? Is it incentives? Is it facilities?"

It is vital for the government and policymakers to understand how people envisage the process of implementing projects and to inform the people how the government views the same process, he emphasised, pointing out that without such understanding on both sides and common perceptions there is little hope of changes in mindset.

Mr. Abinader said one of the problems facing Jordan was the traditionally leading role the government played in the economic development of the country, letting the private sector trail behind. This state of affairs has led to a natural tendency in the private sector to look to the government to take initiatives.

However, he admitted that there has been change, but said this change had to be developed further into a situation where the role of the government is limited to extending encouragement and incentives to businesses and investors.

Developing change should start at the grassroots level, he said, citing

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U.S. business expert recommends internal Jordanian dialogue with all sectors

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the emerging scenario of economic development in the Middle East in a state of peace and stability, Jordan has to undertake immediate action to bring about fundamental changes in attitude and improve the investment climate in the country, says an experienced American business expert.

Such changes should start with the launching of dialogue between the government and representatives of all segments of the society — students, businessmen, bankers, industrialists, investors, professional associations and trade unions etc. — with a view to finding out what exactly every sector wants and envisages, said Jean Abinader, a former president of the U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce.

"Jordan should not see external aid programmes as an answer to its economic problems and development," Mr. Abinader told the Jordan Times in a recent interview in Amman.

He welcomed the draft laws on investments as well as changes to the companies law that are expected to be debated by Parliament as vital to

attracting foreign investment.

According to Mr. Abinader, "what Jordan offers today (to foreign investors) is only marginally better in some aspects than other countries... in Latin America and Asia/Pacific..."

As things stand now, according to Mr. Abinader, "what Jordan offers today (to foreign investors) is only marginally better in some aspects than other countries... in Latin America and Asia/Pacific..."

On the other end of the scale

In boost to Clinton, Senate approves line-item veto

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Senate approved a bill giving the president wider authority to curb congressional spending, as Republican lawmakers struggle to keep their 10-point "Contract With America" on schedule.

The measure, known as the "line-item veto," was passed late Thursday by a vote of 69 to 29 and President Bill Clinton has already made clear he would sign line-item veto legislation into law.

Line-item veto power, long sought by presidents, would allow the chief executive to kill individual spending projects in a bill without scrapping the entire piece of legislation.

"You are going to see a much more fiscally disciplined Congress," said Republican Senator John McCain from Arizona.

Democrats campaigned for the measure.

The House of Representatives last month approved a slightly different version of the legislation.

The bill was to go before a

House-Senate conference to work out differences and Mr. Clinton was expected to sign whatever version emerges from Congress.

"I hope the House and Senate will now get together quickly to resolve their differences and pass the strongest possible bill," Mr. Clinton said.

"The sooner such a bill reaches my desk the sooner I can take further steps to cut the deficit."

The line-item veto also was a priority listed in the Republicans' political manifesto "Contract With America."

So far, Congress has taken action on only four of the 10 items included in the manifesto within the 100 days the Republicans set aside for action on their contract — Thursday was day 79.

Besides the line-item veto, both houses have passed measures making lawmakers abide by the same employment laws as the private sector and requiring Congress to pay for most of the unfunded

mandates it imposes on states.

The balanced budget constitutional amendment was defeated in the Senate.

An ambitious welfare reform bill, which Republicans are seeking to tone down amid criticism that it would harm children, was set for a House vote Friday.

Other controversial bills on defence and foreign policy, jobs and business, crime, middle class tax breaks and term-limits also face uncertain prospects.

Republicans hailed Thursday's vote as another victory in their crusade to trim government by strengthening outside control, in this case from the president, on the legislature's spending habits.

"This is a culmination of years and years and years of abusing the power of the purse," said Republican Senator Dan Coats who said lawmakers had tried more than 200 times since 1976 to pass such a measure.

"But it was always defeated because Congress was not willing to give up the power of spending," Sen. Coats said.

Under the new bill, a two-thirds majority in both houses is required to override a presidential veto.

The Senate earlier voted down a Democratic proposal to cut that requirement down to a simple majority.

Democratic Senate minority leader Thomas Daschle from South Dakota warned that too much power was being shifted to the executive branch, stating the measure was "an abrogation of power to the president, in my view in a very harmful way."

Some Democrats also criticised a provision in the bill by which each spending item is broken down into hundreds of bills, each subject to presidential veto.

"I would rather have a

president working on correcting abuses in government rather than signing 10,000 or 12,000 bills a year," Georgia Senator Sam Nunn said.

Governor urges Argentina to drop Falklands claim

POR STANLEY, Falkland Islands (R) — Governor of the Falkland Islands David Tatham said Friday the islanders would never improve relations with Argentina until Buenos Aires dropped its claim to the southern archipelago.

Speaking at the stately residence stormed by invading Argentine troops in 1982, he said: "The islanders find it difficult to have a rapprochement with a country that says we will take you over by the year 2000."

He dismissed moves by Argentina to win over the British islanders with reported offers of cash to surrender their sovereignty and free holidays in Argentina.

"I think it is both insulting and in vain, and also a sad reflection on the morals of Argentine politics, the belief that everyone has their price," he told Reuters in an interview.

"They are definitely playing a hearts and minds campaign but they do not understand the Falklands character."

About 1,000 troops, mostly Argentines, died after Britain launched a task force to regain the islands seized by Argentine consent.

Britain and Argentina resumed diplomatic relations in 1990 and have been rebuilding trade ties, but the Falkland Islanders still remain deeply suspicious of Argentine motives.

President Carlos Menem has pledged Argentina will regain the islands it claims, and calls the Malvinas, by peaceful means by the year 2000. That claim is enshrined in the Argentine constitution.

"Relations with Argentina are bound to be distant as long as the Argentine claim to the islands is there. Until they drop it, it is difficult for us to treat them as neighbours," Mr. Tatham said.

Seismic surveys show the windswept Falklands, home to around 2,000 people, could enjoy a North Sea-style oil bonanza. The islands' local government, due soon to launch a licensing round, believes exploration could start by the end of next year.

London and Buenos Aires have had talks about joint oil exploration but the British government has made it plain that the way oil exploration develops is up to the islanders.

Mr. Tatham said it "seemed to be impossible" to find a formula for oil development that would gain Argentine consent.

He conceded that multinational oil prospectors would prefer an end to political uncertainty but said: "If we don't get Argentine acquiescence, we will still go ahead... these areas (that could yield oil) are quite close to the Falklands. Developers won't need to have bases on the Argentine mainland."

Officer in CIA pay accused of Guatemala killings

WASHINGTON (R) — A Guatemalan intelligence officer in the pay of the CIA ordered the killing of a U.S. citizen and a guerrilla leader married to an American, a member of Congress alleged Thursday.

New Jersey Democrat Robert Torricelli, a member of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, said the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) knew about the Guatemalan killings in 1990 and 1992 but concealed its knowledge for years.

Responding to Mr. Torricelli's charges, the CIA said it had only received "credible information" about the two deaths long after they occurred and shared it with U.S. authorities.

"When there is an investigation about the death of an American citizen, withholding information about those responsible and circumstances about that murder... is a crime," Mr. Torricelli said, adding he was calling for an inquiry.

He said the United States could protect its interests in Guatemala "without having contractual relationships with hired killers who are involved in a brutal civil war."

Mr. Torricelli spoke at a news conference with Jennifer Harbury, a Harvard Law School graduate and widow of guerrilla leader Efrain Rios Montt who Mr. Torricelli said was tortured and executed after being captured in 1992.

Mr. Harbury, who has gone on hunger strikes to publicise her demands to know her husband's fate, said: "This is the first time I have been told the truth in two years."

Mr. Torricelli said he told Mr. Harbury Wednesday that there was reason to believe

Peru police catch 30 Maoist rebels in sweep

LIMA (R) — Police have arrested the deputy leader and more than 30 members of a breakaway faction of the Maoist guerrilla movement Shining Path in a recent sweep, authorities said.

Police said the hardline guerrilla faction was planning an "armed strike" to try to upset the South American country's April 9 general elections.

Authorities said Maoist rebels were detained, including four members of the group's 10-m-strong Emergency Central Committee.

Police officials said more than 30 guerrillas were caught in the sweep Tuesday and Wednesday, including several regional and national leaders.

They said Margie Clavo Peralta, political chief of a Shining Path faction, was arrested Wednesday with two other rebels in a rented house

in the central Andean city.

The faction is led by Oscar Ramirez Durand who opposes a peace accord with the Peruvian government.

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The faction is led

Features

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1995

The right side of the track

Yo Mike!

AS A FELLOW black American male who has survived life in the U.S. for slightly more than half a century without spending a (non-related civil rights) moment in jail and has managed to avoid the debilitating pitfalls of alcohol and drug addiction, I believe there are a few things I can pull your coat to that can help you stay on the street once you are released from prison today.

Over the last few years you have had plenty of time to reflect on your life, I hope you put it to good use. Some of the things I have heard about your activities behind bars strike me as a positive development.

There has been much talk about your discovery of books. On the face of it this is a positive development, although I would like to have had a hand in selecting your reading lists since your choice of books seems to be eclectic, reflecting neither rhyme nor reason. I would have recommended a more focused selection to fill the gaps in your understanding of how the African-American community has survived and often prospered under the constant stress of racist public policies.

This is no picayune issue Mike, because I am convinced that part of the problem which you face, and other poorly raised young black men like you (even those who acquire fame and fortune such as rappers Tupac Shakur, Snoop Doggy Dog, et al) is a profound ignorance of the heroic tradition of struggle and triumph over great odds that characterise the history of African-Americans.

Hence, at top of my list for you would be From

Slavery To Freedom, a brilliant survey of our history written by the great Afro-American historian John Hope Franklin. Then I would have you read the Life And Times Of Frederick Douglass, Booker T Washington's Up From Slavery, Dr. W. E. B. Dubois's Dusk of Dawn, Paul Robeson's On These I Stand, Joe Louis's My Life, the autobiography of Malcolm X, Brent Staples's Parallel Lives, and Where And When I Enter, Paula Giddings' splendid history of black women in America (File photo)

These books will open up a new world to you Mike, a world where black men and women are thinkers and doers, agents in their own destiny and a destiny of the American nation. Furthermore, in these texts you would encounter the core cultural values that has enabled so many Afro-Americans to not only endure, but triumph over the persistent racial discrimination that is woven into the fabric of society. I believe if you had known more about these matters there is an excellent chance you would never have gone to prison in the first place.

But don't get me wrong, Mike, I'm not one of those who argue that you are a victim of racism against black men. In fact, I became nauseous when I hear the special pleading of those who attempt to portray you as the victim. Since I was not in the room with you and the young lady on that fateful night in Indiana, a night you will no doubt long remember, I cannot say with certainty what happened; perhaps there is more to the story.

But I do know that your prior behaviour with women and your verbal ex-

pressions of contempt for them to myself and ex-light heavyweight champion Jose Torres — such as the fact that you enjoy physically hurting them — convinces me that you were certainly capable of the assault for which you were convicted.

I hate to admit it Mike,

but many Afro-Americans

disagree with me regarding you. I'm often surprised at some of the people who have come to your defence. One of your most unlikely supporters is my own mother, which is surprising because a great part of the reason why I never liked you is due to values I learned from her. You see,



my mother, a paragon of respectability, is a product of the aristocrat southern American tradition adopted by the "coloured genteel," a class whose values determine the morals and manners of the Afro-American middle-class. And you, Mike, are counter to everything they stood for.

But my mother views you as a victim because she grew up in the South at a time when innocent black men were routinely murdered because of false rape charges. And her own Victorian attitudes regarding proper behaviour for young ladies leads her to conclude that the woman

you were convicted of raping asked for it. I disagree. I feel that even if she intended to seduce you, but changed her mind at the 11th hour, you should have played past it, walked away. Considering the number of nubile groupies who were ready to do your bidding, your behaviour bears eloquent testimony to the feminist argument that men who rape are not interested in sex but in using violence to intimidate and dominate women.

Although you have maintained your innocence to the end, if you wish to avoid the same pitfalls in the fu-

ture, you should be very sceptical of those who tell you that you have done nothing wrong, that you are the victim. According to your first trainer, Teddy Atlas, that was part of your problem to begin with. That's what was wrong with your much celebrated relationship with Cus D'Amato, the legendary trainer of boxing champions, whom you have referred to as a surrogate father; he wouldn't tell you when your behaviour was unacceptable, so long as it didn't affect your performance in the ring.

Like Tony Ayala Jr., the great middleweight boxer

who would have been world champion had he not gone to prison for rape, you were raised to fight. While that may be a fine way to bring up a pit bull, it has proven disastrous for human beings. And you, Mike, are a classic case in point. For thus far, you have turned out to be a great fighter but not much of a man. That's why, Mike, it is important for you to understand that the great obstacles which you will have to struggle to overcome in life are not in the ring.

With a geriatric case owning one part of the world heavyweight champion belt, and a cheese

champ holding the other, recapturing the world heavyweight title will be easy pickings for a pugilist of your splendid gifts. The real challenge will be moderating your rage and egoistic impulses to avoid the type of behaviour that will land your butt back in prison. And that can only happen if you confess to your former friends and struggle to change your ways before somebody ends your days. Best wishes for the future.

The above commentary is reprinted from *The Guardian*

Gore urges end to violence

(Continued from page 1)

not." The U.S. promise of aid rang hollow for many Palestinians.

Since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, we've been hearing of hundreds of projects and millions of dollars in aid, but we don't see anything on the ground," said Waleed Dweik, a 35-year-old wholesale vegetable dealer.

Mr. Dweik and most other Jericho residents never caught a glimpse of Mr. Gore and Mr. Arafat as hundreds of Palestinian policemen blocked off roads when the two leaders' motorcade raced through this sleepy oasis, sirens wailing.

The two men met at Mr. Arafat's new government compound, set amid fields and orange groves. Earlier Friday, Mr. Arafat promised a cheering crowd in his speech from the balcony of Jericho's city hall that he would soon take control of the West Bank despite Israel's reluctance to withdraw its troops.

"The message is clear. We are close to taking the rest of the West Bank," Mr. Arafat said. "I feel that we are at the end of a long road."

"He (Gore) promised to support us to save the peace process and to push the Israelis so we can have a quick implementation of what has been agreed upon," Mr. Arafat told reporters after Mr. Gore left to catch his plane in Israel.

Israel and the PLO have set a July 1 deadline for finishing talks on expanding self-rule to the West Bank beyond Jericho, and holding elections.

Ekeus rejects U.S. charges

(Continued from page 1)

Americans held in custody since they strayed across the border from Kuwait 10 days ago.

The Americans were arrested only metres from the Iraq-Kuwait border. They have been identified as David Deliberti, 41, and Bill Barloon, 39, both employees of American military contractors in Kuwait.

Turks bomb villages

(Continued from page 1)

dangerous. But it charted no course of action for Arab states if Israel still declined to become a signatory.

"We have... said that an indefinite extension of the NPT should not be linked to the decision by any additional state to become a signatory to the treaty," Mr. Gore told a news conference, calling the resolution a "positive development."

Mr. Gore, also restated the Clinton administration's intention of continuing to grant Israel \$3 billion a year in aid.

In separate talks with Mr. Gore, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reiterated that Israel would become a signatory to the NPT only after two years of a comprehensive peace to the Middle East, Mr. Peres' aides said.

Such symbols are important in a process which has brought ordinary Palestinians new tangible benefits.

Of the \$2.4 billion pledged by international donors in aid after the 1993 Oslo accords, only \$300 million has arrived. Gaza's economy is collapsing, its workers unable to cross into Israel since suicide bombings.

Jericho is a town of billboards on idle construction sites, its fledgling economic boom stunted by Mr. Arafat's decision to make Gaza his interim headquarters.

Mr. Gore said Washington will have contributed \$150 million by September this year out of a total of \$500 million pledged for 1994-1998.

On Thursday, Mr. Gore welcomed a compromise Arab League resolution on extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The resolution, adopted at a two-day meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, described Israel's long-time refusal to sign the treaty as

dangerous. But it charted no course of action for Arab states if Israel still declined to become a signatory.

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Israelis see Palestinian state

(Continued from page 1)

Spokesman Oded Ben-Ami confirmed Israeli media reports Mr. Rabin told U.S.

Vice President Al Gore at the latest.

In another opinion survey, published Thursday, 67 per cent of Palestinians said they favoured continuing the autonomy talks — the highest figure so far recorded.

Asked if he could confirm the reports, Mr. Ben-Ami said: "Yes I can."

Israel's Jerusalem Post daily said participants at the meeting between Mr. Gore and Mr. Rabin afterward reminded Israeli reporters Mr. Rabin had long said dates set for stages of the 1993 PLO-Israel peace deal were not "holy."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview published on Friday the 1993 peace accord with the PLO had caused political problems for Israel but he did

not regret it.

"I regret nothing," he told the French daily *Le Figaro*. "We did the only thing we could do. But we face difficulties today. We must not hide them."

Mr. Peres said the peace process so far had been "like passing your wedding night on a minefield," but he remained optimistic about the deal.

"I have never in my life been a pessimist. Never," he said.

Asked if the accord granting limited self-rule to the Palestinians had been a political loss, Mr. Peres said:

"In Israel, the people do not support us. They say, 'you make peace, you give up land, and we are always afraid. Show us what you have gained.'"



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Shaping the world... one mind at a time

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1995

IMF shelves \$55b plan to aid world economy

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has shelved a controversial plan to pump some \$55 billion into the world economy after rich and poor nations were unable to agree on it, a key policymaker said Thursday.

Philippe Maystadt, head of the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee, told reporters that the proposal would not be on the agenda at the fund's semi-annual meeting here next month.

The \$55 billion plan had been championed by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus as a way to help meet growing global demands for capital and had the backing of developing nations.

Under the proposal, the IMF would have effectively created money out of thin air via an issue of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

But rich industrial countries, especially Germany, had opposed the plan, saying they saw no need for it. A compromise proposal, put forward by the United States and Britain, for a smaller, more-targeted SDR issue has also been shelved.

With the SDR issue in abeyance, next month's IMF meeting is expected to be dominated by recent turmoil in the currency markets and the fall-out from the Mexico crisis.

Saying that major nations were unlikely to strike a currency pact to control the volatile markets, Mr. Maystadt suggested that the IMF could play a greater role in overseeing their foreign exchange policies.

"It doesn't seem like (that) kind of (currency) agreement is the appropriate solution at the present time," Mr. Maystadt said. "(So) you need to find another way to improve cooperation between major industrial nations. Maybe the fund and the managing director can help."

He acknowledged that such a role was likely to be limited to at most that of an "honest broker".

Mr. Maystadt also suggested the IMF should consider borrowing from well-off developing nations like Singapore so it has enough cash to handle future Mexico-style economic crises.

"If you have a second Mexico-type crisis, the fund could deal with (it)," he said. "But if there is a third one, we will have a problem."

Poorest nations seen faring better this year

GENEVA (R) — The world's poorest nations should enjoy slightly higher economic growth this year but its benefits will be offset by population rises, according to a United Nations report.

The annual "Least Developed Countries Report", from the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), predict gross domestic product growth of 2.3 per cent in the poorest economies, up from an average of less than 1.6 per cent during 1990-94.

Population growth, however, is estimated at just under three per cent, meaning that

per capita income rates will continue to decline for the 580 million inhabitants of the 48 countries designated by the U.N. as least developed countries (LDCs).

The report says that economic performances between the LDCs vary considerably. About a quarter of them have registered notable increases in output during the first half of the 1990s, usually through expansion of agriculture, government commitment to development and international support.

Others — most notably

placements and breakdown of the system of government.

A large majority of LDCs have been undertaking structural adjustment programmes and policy reforms since the early 1980s to improve economic efficiency, promote private enterprise and liberalise external trade. But the UNCTAD report is generally critical of those programmes, mostly carried out with the support of the World Bank or International Monetary Fund, saying they have not succeeded in removing structural constraints.

The LDCs have been expected to implement policies not always designed to suit

their conditions and to accomplish too much, too soon, and with too few resources," the report comments.

The report is also unenthusiastic about the LDCs' treatment under the Uruguay Round trade accord concluded last year and currently being ratified by governments.

It said that by the early 1990s, the LDCs' share of world exports had fallen from 0.6 per cent in 1980 to just 0.3 per cent. The ratio of exports to gross domestic product fell from over 17 per cent to 14 per cent over the same period.

LDCs' growing marginalisation in world trade was largely due to the sluggish world demand for primary commodities. Although 1995's higher predicted growth reflects stronger demand, the report warns that market sentiment could be quickly reversed.

On top of that, UNCTAD said, LDCs may now suffer from the erosion of their preferential margins on key exports to traditional major markets because of the generalised tariff reductions under the Uruguay Round accord which will end their competitive advantage.

Israeli-Egyptian trade increases since peace progress

CAIRO (R) — Trade between Egypt and Israel has suddenly taken off and Israeli imports of Egyptian goods will probably double this year, the man in charge of Israel's stand at the Cairo International Fair said Friday.

Shaul Sasson, an official of the Israeli ministry of trade and industry, told Reuters the self-rule agreement between Israel and the Palestinians in 1993 was the watershed after years of stagnation at a volume of around \$10 million a year.

Mr. Sasson was speaking as hundreds of curious Egyptians queued to enter Israel's stand, the first at the Cairo fair since an embassy attack was shot dead nearby 10 years ago.

Some 30 Israeli companies and institutions are taking part, exhibiting electronics, jewellery, cosmetics, computer products and medical and agricultural equipment.

Mr. Sasson denied Israel stayed away for the past decade because the Egyptian authorities objected to their presence. "Nobody in Israel wanted to come here. Trade relations were very cold. But after the Oslo agreement you can see a big jump," he said.

The volume of non-oil trade, with the balance slightly in favour of Egypt, was \$20.5 million in all of 1993, \$13 million in the first half of 1994 and \$30.9 million in the second half.

"I'm sure the figures for imports (of Egyptian goods) will be double this year because of the peace process. The other reason is that the Egyptians did many bureaucratic things to restrict exports, and Israel did the same in response," he said.

Until last year, Israel re-

quired import licences for Egyptian products and tended not to grant them if the products would compete with Israeli-made goods. Now they treat Egyptian goods the same as they treat, say, Turkish or Japanese goods.

"When peace broke out, I think the Egyptians began to understand that they might miss something and be left behind. They haven't lifted all the restrictions yet but the general approach is very positive," Mr. Sasson said.

The trade official said Israel's strategy for the Arab World was to use trade as a bridge to build political confidence.

"One Arab fear has been that Israel wants to dominate them by economic colonialism. We are aware of this and don't want to be seen as dominators, though we are the strongest economy. Instead we see trade in a political way and we want both sides to see that peace is fruitful for both," he added.

Hillel Hodot, exhibiting at the fair for ESC computers of Ramat-Gan, said his visit had largely achieved its targets.

"We came to check out the market, to see if business is possible and find a potential distributor," he said.

"We have found a lot of leads and now we just have to make it operative. I feel that they (Egyptian businesses) are interested in us. We're talking business," he added.

Egyptian opposition groups had planned demonstrations against Israel's presence at the fair Friday but police at the gates said no one had tried to assemble.

The leftist Arab Nasserite Democratic Party said Thursday police detained 13 of its members.

Shares brighten as dollar creeps up

LONDON (R) — A late comeback by the dollar coaxed stock markets into a late but sharp rally Friday as they struggled free from the burden of a strong mark, although gains appeared fragile.

But dealers say the dollar remains within striking distance of historically weak territory, after it set yet another record low below 88 yen overnight in Tokyo.

Wall Street skinned nearly one per cent ahead soon after the session kicked off, setting the stage for late gains in Europe. Most European stock exchanges ended higher.

London's stock market — Europe's largest — stormed above a key support level as Wall Street surged.

German shares, which have shed about 10 per cent since the start of the month, reversed early losses to end modestly higher in after hours trading.

The Russian economy is starting to stabilise, but the positive changes are still very fragile," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a meeting of regional and government leaders in the ornate Marble Hall of the Kremlin. "This year can and must become the turning point in the economic crisis," he added.

German authorities remained markets they remained sensitive to the impacts of a firm mark.

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt warned that turbulent currencies and Germany's recent high wage settlements threatened the country's economic recovery.

"The recovery is still in a take-off phase, and fragile," he said in a speech.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Theo Waigel emphasised Germany would continue to pursue exchange rate stability, and rejected complaints about the mark's strength.

GENEVA (R) — Former Italian trade minister Renato Ruggiero was officially appointed first long-term director-general of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Friday, officials said.

The decision, taken by ambassadors from the WTO's 128 present and pending members at a meeting of the general council, was a foregone conclusion after envoys on Thursday agreed to nominate him.

An official statement agreed at the WTO meeting said: "The general council formally appoints Ruggiero who will take office on May 1 and serve as director-general for a four-year term."

The council instructed the WTO budget committee to take measures immediately to create a new post — a fourth deputy director-general — under Mr. Ruggiero, so as to accommodate his defeated rival, South Korea's ex-trade Minister

Kim Chul-Su.

This decision, also endorsed by WTO envoys Thursday, has caused major dissension among developing countries, particularly African states who have no representations at top level in the body and insist their status must be upgraded.

The way was paved for Mr. Ruggiero's nomination after Washington, which had backed former Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari until he pulled out this month, swung over to the Italian's camp and persuaded Seoul to withdraw Mr. Kim.

But the backstage deal angered many developing countries and was seen as damaging the credibility of the embryonic trade organisation intended to symbolise a new era of cooperation.

Switzerland's trade ambassador William Rossier, in a

speech Friday, said his host country was very unhappy at the use of WTO's management structures to satisfy regional problems, delegates reported.

France told delegates that it regretted that "bad seeds had been sown" in the final stages of the nine-month contest.

Mr. Ruggiero, who served as Italy's foreign trade minister from 1987 to 1991, launched the programme for the liberalisation of his country's foreign trade and capital movements.

A lawyer and professional diplomat, he also served in various posts for the European Commission in Brussels, including spokesman for the European Community president Roy Jenkins.

He is currently executive vice chairman of the International advisory board of Fiat SPA.

Russian premier seeks tough policies, says economy still fragile

MOSCOW (R) — Russia promised to crack down on spending and inflation Friday, but warned that an early turnaround in a vulnerable economy could not yet be guaranteed.

"The Russian economy is starting to stabilise, but the positive changes are still very fragile," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a meeting of regional and government leaders in the ornate Marble Hall of the Kremlin. "This year can and must become the turning point in the economic crisis," he added.

Russia sent tanks and troops into the Caucasus region on Dec. 11 and thousands of people have died in the expensive military campaign. Many Chechen cities have been reduced to rubble and the infrastructure has been destroyed.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the fate of Russia's economic reforms depended to a large extent on the country's ability to keep monetary policies tight. "We should not relax policy throughout the whole year," he said.

"It is difficult now, and will be even more difficult when seasonal factors take effect in

the second half. But if we let the presses start printing money again and hope things will sort themselves out after that, we can forget about economic reform," he added.

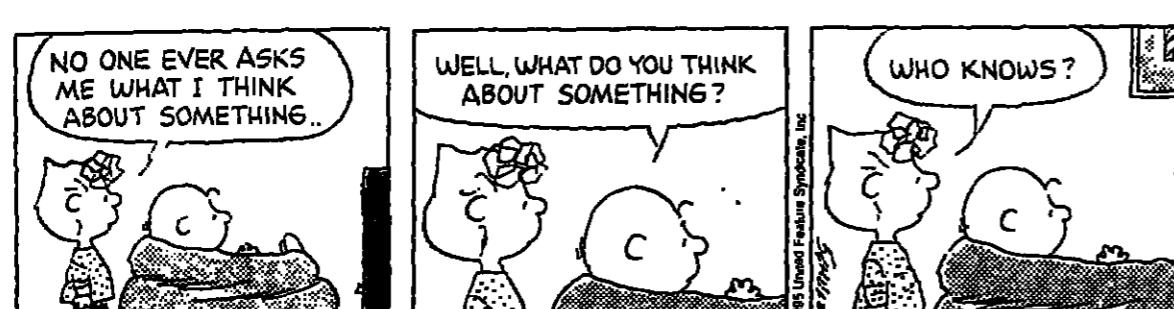
The government programme says the economy will start to grow next year, monthly inflation will fall to one or two per cent in the second half and foreign investment will begin to rise.

Inflation was a monthly 11 per cent in February. The government aims to cut the year-on-year rate to 15 or 20 per cent by 1996 and 1997 from about 200 per cent in 1994.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said Russia intended to bring the budget deficit down to five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1996 and three per cent in 1997.

In the past, factory managers overreported output to show they had fulfilled the plan. Now they hide production to avoid taxes, distorting already unreliable data and making it hard to judge the size of Russia's long industrial decline.

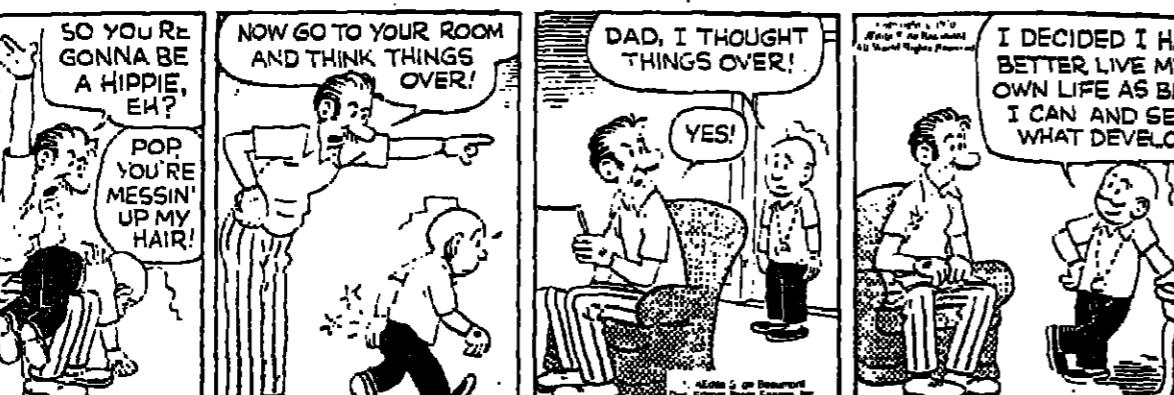
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

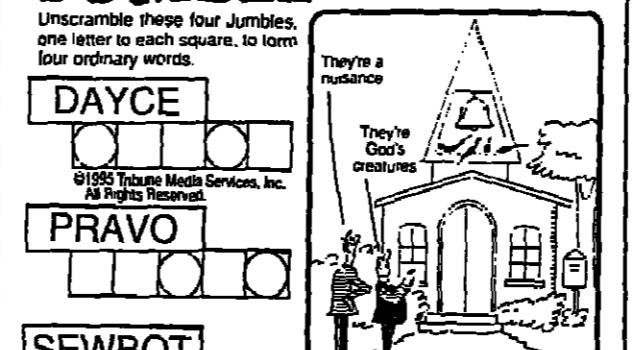
By Glasberg



"In the first 18 years of my life, I gained 165 pounds. In the second 18 years of my life I only gained 75 pounds!"

JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arthron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: OF

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MAKER SINCE SHEKEL MOBILE

Answer: What the clam digger considered his work — A SHELL GAME

THE Daily Crossword

by Stanley B. Whittier

ACROSS

1	Almond	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112

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Price index dips below psychological point at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Stocks at the Amman stock market took another beating this week and the official price index dipped to its lowest since 1993 against a continuing crunch on liquidity as speculators moved capital away from the bourse to more lucrative short-term commercial bank deposits, dealers said.

Also contributing to the run on capital was the release

of primary stocks by companies seeking to raise capital, said the dealers.

The weekly Amman Financial Market (AFM) showed turnover during the week ended Thursday rose to JD 5.6 million, up 14 per cent from the previous week's JD 4.9 million.

The official AFM index closed for the week at 139.1 points after losing 1.3 points or 0.9 per cent from the

week's opening of 140.4 points, the first such dip since July 1993.

Industrials shed 1.4 points or 1.2 per cent during the week, commercial banks and financial institutions 0.9 points or 0.6 per cent, the service sector lost 3.3 points or 2.5 per cent, and insurance shares dipped by 1.4 points or 1.2 per cent.

Industrials topped weekly trading with a volume of JD 2.42 million. The services sector and commercial banks came behind with JD 1.52 million and JD 1.51 million

and insurance stock with JD 160,000 (\$232,000).

The AFM report said 2.2 million shares changed hands during the week. Stocks of 77 companies from among the 120 listed in the market were traded during the week. As trading closed, 15 of them showed gains, 53 lost and nine remained stable during the week.

AFM dealers said the run on capital in the market was continuing as commercial banks maintained offers of yields up to 9.5 per cent for short-term deposits after

three-month and six-month certificates of deposits issued by the Central Bank hiked interest rates in the past several weeks.

Furthermore, said the dealers who cannot be identified by name under standing market instructions, fresh issues by commercial banks under central bank orders to raise their capital and companies seeking capital for expansion were drawing funds away from the AFM floor.

According to brokers, primary issues worth JD 700 mil-

lion are expected to be in the offing before end of 1996. This includes up to JD 250 million sought by commercial banks which have a Dec. 31, 1996 deadline to raise their capital to JD 20 million.

"The market is in a severe crisis of liquidity," said a dealer. "Unless the interest rates go down — which seems unlikely — or institutions turn to serious trading to prop up their equity, it is difficult to expect prices to recover in the short term."

The market needs fresh

money, said the broker. "Investors are expecting some of the dozens of foreign firms which have been authorised to enter the market to take a closer interest in buying, now that the prices have gone down," said the broker.

The 140-point mark in the AFM index is widely seen as a psychological point for most investors. At the same time, it is also seen as the point where foreign firms come in for holdings with hopes that prices could only go up.

Coffee prices drop

LONDON (R) — Brazil's apparent failure to unite its own growers and exporters on coffee policy has sparked a drop of more than five per cent in world prices, traders said.

This also threatens to undermine producer efforts to stabilise the market, they said.

London robusta coffee futures fell to \$3,000 per tonne on Friday compared with \$3,170 on Wednesday.

Traders said differences within the coffee industry in Brazil, the biggest exporter, unnerved the market and triggered a technical sell-off. "It was the detonator that set off the bomb," one analyst said.

At issue is whether Brazil should adopt export quotas if weak prices require that nation, with others in the Association of Coffee Producing Countries, to implement an agreement to curb world supply.

On Thursday, growers disagreed with the idea of export quotas only a day after exporters said they backed them.



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMEISANI TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170					
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (18/03/1995 - 22/03/1995) WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. JD	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	
ARAB BANK P/C	367,742	188,000	188,000	186,850	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	111,450	4,420	4,420	4,350	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	35,375	4,420	4,420	4,260	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	19,599	1,400	1,400	1,400	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1,046	2,720	2,720	2,640	
THE HOUSING BANK	120,807	6,020	6,020	5,920	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	206,304	2,920	2,920	2,900	
JORDAN GULF BANK	52,576	1,220	1,220	1,210	
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	7,000	3,520	3,520	3,500	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	127,413	3,760	3,760	3,760	
BUSINESS BANK	61,815	3,220	3,220	3,300	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	23,246	3,780	3,780	3,650	
BEIT EL-ILAL SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	10,981	3,050	3,050	3,000	
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	327,457	1,080	1,080	1,070	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	18,605	1,250	1,250	1,230	
BANKS SECTOR					
	1511947	INDEX NUMBER: 157.67			
CHANGE	1 - 0.582				
JORDAN INSURANCE	6,500	3,400	3,400	3,250	
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	3,290	1,950	1,950	1,950	
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	940	4,100	4,100	4,160	
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	138,782	2,450	2,450	2,540	
YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	2,725	2,550	2,550	2,600	
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1,300	2,600	2,600	2,600	
INSURANCE SECTOR					
	156536	INDEX NUMBER: 134.73			
CHANGE	1 - 1.252				
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	49,932	1,530	1,530	1,570	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	52,137	1,480	1,480	1,490	
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	416,825	6,900	6,900	6,850	
JORDAN IRON MINERAL	1,400	2,900	2,900	2,800	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	321,673	5,000	5,000	5,090	
ARAB NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	41,001	4,700	4,700	4,850	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	78,209	3,130	3,130	2,940	
NATIONAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	9,478	2,050	2,050	1,920	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	3,136	1,100	1,100	1,120	
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	80,170	11,750	11,750	10,400	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	61,858	2,320	2,320	2,250	
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	43,524	3,480	3,480	3,350	
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	11,649	1,380	1,380	1,380	
SERVICES SECTOR					
	1176483	INDEX NUMBER: 127.35			
CHANGE	1 - 2.532				
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	7,440	28,000	28,000	25,900	
ATTASKEEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	1,526	1,100	1,100	1,060	
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	198,549	2,960	2,960	2,990	
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	24,908	4,900	4,900	4,500	
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (18/03/1995 - 22/03/1995) WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. JD	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	28,802	0,890	0,890	0,880	
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	33,777	0,750	0,750	0,740	
KARMA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	42,827	1,390	1,390	1,400	
UNIFIED CO. FOR ORGANIZING LAND TRANS.	96,220	2,010	2,010	1,950	
ARAB FIN INV.CO	141,083	0,910	0,910	0,880	
ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES	6,227	1,030	1,030	1,000	
NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	19,835	1,500	1,500	1,470	
NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO	15,273	1,070	1,070	1,040	
JORDAN NEW CARBON COMPANY	72,153	1,580	1,580	1,550	
EL-SAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	11,423	2,250	2,250	2,190	
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	61,407	1,520	1,520	1,490	
UNIVERSAL METALS	607	1,670	1,670	1,590	
JORDAN STEEL	22,579	0,960	0,960	0,930	
ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	10,635	0,840	0,840	0,860	
GRAND TOTAL					
	562900				

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Precious Metals		Date: 23/3/1995			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	383.30	7.60	Silver	4.68	0.110

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 23/3/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0910	1.0945
Deutsche Mark	0.4905	0.4930
Swiss Franc	0.5915	0.5945
French Franc	0.1384	0.1391
Japanese Yen	0.7755	0.7782
Dutch Guilder	0.4373	0.4395
Swedish Krona	0.6666	0.6666
Italian Lira	0.0407	0.0404
Belgian Franc	0.6666	0.6666

Other Currencies Date: 23/3/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8120
Lebanese Lira	0.041750	0.042800
Saudi Riyal	0.1831	0.1841
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1874	0.1891

Anand a threat to Kasparov for world chess title

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands (AP) — India, where chess originated about 1,500 years ago, has never had a contender for the World Championship. Until now.

Viswanathan Anand of India, the 25-year-old who defeated 20-year-old American Gata Kamsky Wednesday to win the Professional Chess Association candidates final series, is a clear threat to defeat PCA world champion Garry Kasparov.

The two are to play in September in Cologne, Germany, for the world title.

British grandmaster Nigel Short, who was destroyed by Kasparov in the PCA 1993 World Championship match, rates Kasparov a 60-40 favorite. Likewise for British grandmaster Michael Stean and Dutch grandmaster Gert Ligterink.

Those odds are still pretty good against the almost-unbeatable Kasparov.

"If you look at Kasparov's results and at the very strong players he's beaten and then at this match, Anand came out one class stronger. He will be a formidable opponent. Kasparov will have to play to his full strength and even then the outcome is not clear," Stean said.

Anand defeated Kamsky 6.5-4.5, winning Wednesday's 11th game on the 50th



Viswanathan Anand of India (left) is congratulated by Canaries tourism president after he won the PCA final series (AFP photo)

move to clinch victory when Kamsky resigned. The win was sweet for Anand, who lost to Kamsky last year in a qualifying match for the rival FIDE title.

World chess is split into two bodies, the PCA and its older rival, the World Chess Federation, which is known by the French-language acronym FIDE.

Anand has a reputation as a tactical genius who delights in unfathomable complica-

tions. He is also one of the fastest moving players in top-level chess, often taking less than an hour to finish his moves.

An easy going person who smiles often and readily and makes himself available for interviews, Anand on Thursday was more reserved when asked about his chances against Kasparov.

"I haven't had a chance to think about it — maybe in a week," Anand said.

Kamsky, meanwhile, is not out of the picture. Kamsky is scheduled to face Anatoly Karpov later this year for the FIDE world title. A victory there would make him the world's youngest-ever world champion.

A win against Karpov — a reasonable possibility — would also put him in a "reunification" match that has been agreed on in principle by FIDE and PCA for

1996.

Cantona free on bail as fan pleads 'not guilty'

CROYDON, England (R) — A soccer fan assaulted by Manchester United's French star Eric Cantona during a match in January pleaded not guilty on Friday to using abusive behaviour during the frac-

cas. Matthew Simmons, a 20-year-old window fitter from South London, appeared in court in Croydon a day after Cantona was sentenced to two weeks in jail for assault.

Simmons was granted unconditional bail. He will appear again in court on May 23 for a trial before magistrates on two counts of using

abusive words and behaviour during United's January 25 Premier League match against Crystal Palace at their ground in Croydon.

Simmons' hearing, which is expected to take three days, will take place at the same time and in the same building as that of Cantona's team-mate Paul Ince, who will be tried on a common assault charge arising from the same game.

As he left court, Simmons was knocked to the ground by cameramen and journalists who have besieged the courthouse for two days.

Simmons has already had to change his address after threats by Manchester United fans.

Cantona, who had pleaded guilty to common assault, was freed on bail on Thursday pending an appeal against a sentence that many Britons considered too harsh.

While nobody questioned

Cantona's guilt — his two-

footed lunge has been shown on television time and again — seven out of 10 callers to a TV programme thought the punishment was too stiff.

Of 22,723 calls to a GMTV telephone poll on Friday, just 30 per cent agreed with magistrate Jean Pearce's decision to send the temperamental French star to prison.

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After a period of induction and training, the successful candidate will assume responsibility for the direction and management of the society's activities and staff, in accordance with its mission statement and objectives. He or she will work as the leader of a team of 60 staff and be responsible to the Board of Directors. Guidance on new management procedures will be given by World Bank staff.

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Forrest Gump
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15

Cinema Tel.: 699238
PLAZA
Andy Garcia — Mee Ryan in
When A Man Loves A Woman
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel.: 677420
CONCORD
CONCORD '1'
Comedian star: Adel Imam —
Bakhit & Andadileh
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
CONCORD '2'
Jean-Claude Van Damme
STREET FIGHTER
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00

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Sport

Cricket also has a Michael Jordan

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Both athletes have specialty shoes created for them and reported seven-figure paychecks to show for it.

Both are superstars in their sports.

But Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan had never heard of Australian cricket hero Shane Warne when the two met last summer for the shooting of a couple of Nike commercials — Jordan's for the "Air Jordan," Warne's for the "Air Flipper."

Americans may not know him, but the blond Australian has been widely hailed as the "Michael Jordan of cricket" since bursting into prominence in the last couple of years with a lethal ball-throwing style.

The 25-year-old Warne is star bowler, cricket's equivalent of a baseball pitcher, for Australia's national team, which is currently duelling the West Indies in the Caribbean.

"He's probably the greatest spin bowler of all time," says Everard Gordon, a Trinidadian cricket expert who played professionally in England in the 1960s. "He can do stuff with the ball you have never, ever seen before."

With his yellow hair, blue eyes, rosy cheeks and playful smile, Warne looks like a surfer. But the angry scab on his arm earned diving for a ball and the diamond stud in his left ear attest to how he earns his paycheck.

Warne came very close to not making it in professional sports. Smoking a Benson and Hedges by a hotel swimming pool on a recent practice day, he said his dream had been to play Australian rules football, but the husky six-footer (1.8 metres) was cut from the Melbourne team because he was too slow and too short.

"When I got the exec, I thought, what do I do now? I didn't want to work," So Warne signed on with a pro cricket team in England, then landed a spot on the Victoria State squad in 1990.

Dropped after one season, he played on a youth team for a year and was called back up to the state team for four games before the national team grabbed him for the 1991 series against India.

The going was rocky.

"I got smashed all over the park," confessed Warne. "I got dropped to 12th man," the lowest active position on the squad. Dangled by his fingertips, he trained hard for the 1992 season, travelled with the team to Sri Lanka and led it to victory. Back in Australia playing for Victoria, he played the "game of a lifetime" in December 1992, and found himself promoted for good.

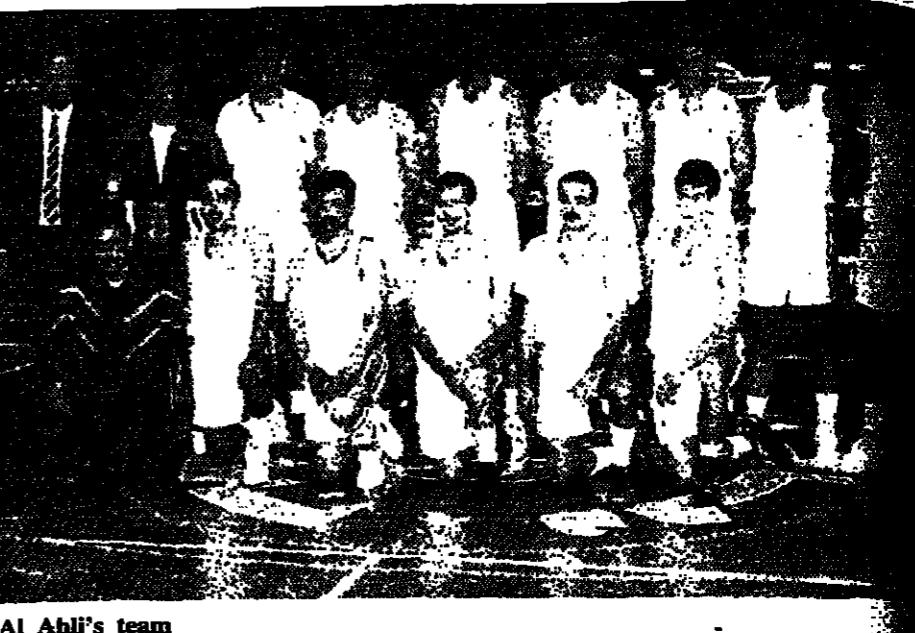
"That was where my life turned around," said Warne. "It gave me a burst of confidence. I started believing in myself."

Since then, Warne has climbed to the top of the game, shutting down batters with his unusual ball-throwing style.

He tries to send curve and knuckleballs instead of fastballs — only has deliveries have names like the leg spin, left arm spin, wrong in, googly and his trademark flipper, a vicious pitch with topspin that bounces upward in front of the batter.

Adjustment to sudden success has brought some growing pains, Warne confessed. In India earlier this year he "supped," exploding in rage at a batsman and shouting expletives heard on TV sets around the world. He was fined for his behaviour, in addition to being thoroughly embarrassed.

Warne plugs an Australian-New Zealand jeans company called Just Jeans and is an off-season personality on Australia's Channel 9, which broadcasts cricket in the land down under.



Ahli to represent Jordan Arab Clubs Championship

Naghaway: We aim for a top two spe

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's basketball champions Al Ahli Saturday leave Amman for Cairo to take part in the Arab Champion Clubs Competition in which 15 top teams will be participating March 26 - April 8.

Rivalry is expected to be quite tough, but Al Ahli, the Kingdom's champions for the third consecutive year, seem undoubtably they are one of the top teams and are aiming for nothing less than the title.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Ahli chairman Adnan Naghaway sounded confident his team was ready to take on the best of the Arab World.

"We have been training hard. Our lineup is complete. We are definitely eyeing a top two standing," Mr. Naghaway Friday told the Jordan Times.

"Our team groups players whose dedication has enabled them to become the country's top team. I'm very optimistic about the upcoming competition," he added.

Indeed Al Ahli's form has been steadily improving ever since 1990 when they clinched the Jordanian championship away from all-time rivals Al Orthodoxi who had an undis-

puted reign over the basketball scene in 1976-1989.

With the recruitment of Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasha, Al Ahli altered their style to a faster, up-to-date game, and with the presence of a mighty lineup of veterans and younger promising players they were able to win the title over the past three years after Al Orthodoxi won the trophy in 1991.

Mr. Naghaway said Al Ahli were also preparing to represent Jordan in the Asian Club's Championship which will be held in Malaysia in September with ten countries taking part.

Al Ahli, who will be representing Jordan for the first time, have received JD 5,000 from the ministry of youth for their participation in the Arab championship.

The participating teams include three Egyptian teams: Championship titleholders Al Jazireh, current league champions Al Ittihad of Alexandria, in addition to Egypt's Al Ahli.

Other teams are Al Zahra' of Tunisia, Al Sharqa of the United Arab Emirates, Kazma of Kuwait, Al Riyadi and Al Hilal of Lebanon, Al Mina of Yemen, Bofarogue of Algeria, Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia, Al Tabagh and Al Widad of Morocco.

Orthodoxi's women's basketball team leaves for Damascus today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Yara Kheir, Nadine Kishkash, Dana Dallal, Zein Ammar, Samar Mdanar, Zeena Farah, Ellen Shadid, Maher Al Naber and Muna Khalil.

Al Orthodoxi's men's team is also currently in Syria playing in a tournament dedicated to the late Basel Al Assad. Al Orthodoxi scored a 58-56 win over Lebanon's Al Riyadi and 71-58 over Neptune of Lebanon and lost 72-60 to Al Jeish, and 60-52 to Egypt's Al Zamalek to finish third.

During their five-day visit, Al Orthodoxi's women will be playing four matches against Al Thawra and Al Jeish.

The men's and women's national teams are scheduled to play in the Asian Championships in July, while the Under-18 team who clinched third place in the Asian Championship, will also present the country in the World Championship which will be held in Greece in the same month.

(JBF) this week abruptly announced that all the season's scheduled competitions which were sent in a circular to clubs earlier in the year, would be rescheduled soon.

The move was displeasing to teams who had completed their training and had scheduled their visits abroad to put the finishing touches on their preparations and tactics.

However the JBF explained their move saying it was in the best interests of national teams.

The men's



Pete Sampras

Sabatini collapses as Sampras advances

KEY BISCAYNE (AP) — Near the end, pacing behind the baseline, Gabriela Sabatini actually put her hand to her throat.

In a collapse almost identical to her 1993 French Open failure, Sabatini blew a 6-1, 5-1 lead, double-faulted 18 times, squandered three match points and lost to ailing Kimiko Date in Thursday's semifinals of the Lipton Championships.

Date, bothered by a sore shoulder that hindered her serve and forehand, nonetheless rallied to win 1-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-4).

"When it was 5-1 (in the second set), I didn't feel very good," Sabatini said. "I was close to winning the match, but that wasn't the feeling I got."

Date likewise looked less than confident in advancing to the final against Steffi Graf.

"I never thought of winning," she said, "until the last point."

Remarkably, Sabatini also blew a 6-1, 5-1 lead two years ago in Paris. Mary Joe Fernandez survived five match points to win that quarterfinals match 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 10-8.

Sabatini's career quarterfinals, top-ranked Pete Sampras shook off a code violation for arguing a call and came from behind to beat Andrei Medvedev, 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4. In the third set, Medvedev led 3-1 and had three break-point chances before Sampras rallied.

Unseeded swede Jonas Bjorkman celebrated his 23rd birthday by beating 30-year-old Mats Wilander, 1-6, 1-6, 7-5. Wilander blew a 5-2 lead in the third set.

Sampras plays Bjorkman in the semifinals, and second-ranked Andre Agassi meets

Magnus Larsson.

Date's injury, a strained rotator cuff, could handicap her in the final Saturday against the second-seeded Graf, who beat No. 3 Jana Novotna 6-2, 7-5.

Date will probably be able to play, WTA Tour trainer Jill Gresley said. The injury has bothered her for about four years, and she aggravated it earlier in the tournament.

"I always have this problem," said Date, seeded seventh. "Once I have enough rest, I can go on."

Her 3-hour, 5-minute due with Sabatini was far from an artistic success for either player. On a hot, sunny afternoon, the restless crowd moaned, groaned and even laughed at the poor quality of shot-making.

There were a numbing 148 unforced errors — 79 by Date and 69 by Sabatini. But the 115-pound Date stayed fresher in the 95-degree heat.

"Physically she was much better than me," Sabatini said. "That was the difference."

The fifth-seeded Sabatini's double faults all came in the final two sets. She double-faulted to lose the second-set tiebreaker, then did it again to lose the second, sixth and 10th games of the final set, giving up the lead each time.

As Sabatini fell behind in the second tiebreaker, she wandered near the baseline, looking stunned and exhausted and rubbing her throat with her right hand.

Earlier she had appeared on her way to an easy win, especially when Date called for a trainer to attend to her aching right shoulder at the end of the first set. Date clutched her shoulder almost every time she missed a serve or hit an unforced error.

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APPLICANTS TO BE SUBMITTED ON THE SPOT. JORDAN WORKERS ONLY. QUOTATION AND PHONES NO 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Japan ready to consider aid for Jordan projects, awaits specific requests

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan and Jordan are discussing Japanese financing for projects as part of Tokyo's aid for the Kingdom, and immediate projects under consideration include rebuilding bridges across the River Jordan and roads linking them with Jordanian highways.

Japanese officials making the disclosure said, however, that Jordan had to make specific project proposals seeking financing rather than lumpsum Japanese aid since the Tokyo government's policy was to allocate grants on a project-to-project basis rather than granting a blanket amount to any government.

Hiroshi Shiojiri and Mitsu-
gu Saito, two Japanese officials who held talks here last week with officials from the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Transport, also said Thursday Tokyo was now awaiting specific financing requests from Jordan.

No immediate comment was available from Jordanian officials.

Mr. Shiojiri, senior assistant at the Economic Cooperation Bureau at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, and Mr. Saito, deputy director of the Development Cooperation Division of the bureau, in an informal meeting with the press, declined to disclose figures in relation to possible Japanese financing for the proposed projects.

But they affirmed that the projects include rebuilding the King Hussein Bridge and the Peace Bridge (formerly Sheikh Hussein Bridge) across the Jordan and modernising the roads that link

the bridges with the main Jordanian highways.

Figures available to the Jordan Times indicate that the reconstruction of the King Hussein Bridge and access roads is estimated to cost about \$17 million, and the Peace Bridge and access roads \$6 million. In addition are projects to modernise the North Shuneh-South Shuneh highway (\$107 million) and the Irbid-North Shuneh Highway (\$23 million).

The philosophy behind the Japanese interest in financing the bridge and road projects at this point in time is that it would help interaction between the two sides of the River Jordan, said Mr. Shiojiri.

"We are ready to discuss Japanese financing for any project on the basis of feasibility," he said. "But he added, "we hope for better Jordanian understanding of the Japanese government's policy, which is that (Tokyo) would extend aid only on the basis of specific projects."

Jordanian officials think in terms of a specific amount of aid while Japanese thinking and policy for financing and aid are based on specific projects supported by feasibility studies," said Mr. Shiojiri. "If reasonable, projects will be financed on the basis of feasibility."

Mr. Shiojiri, who speaks fluent Arabic and Mr. Saito noted that Jordan became eligible for Japanese grant only in 1993 when the per capita income of the Kingdom went below \$1,305.

Throughout the years, Japanese grants to the Kingdom were negligible, although the Tokyo government made available large amounts in loans to Jordan. Japan now holds about \$1.81 billion of Jordan's foreign

debts.

Since 1993, Japanese grants to Jordan amounted to \$40 million.

The Japanese officials said aid for 1995 would depend on the feasibility of the projects proposed by Jordan for Japanese financing. However, it is expected to exceed the 1994 level of \$30 million.

They explained that the Tokyo government extends grants for projects that involve humanitarian needs — education, health, water etc. — while it offers low-cost development loans for infrastructure projects with commercial aspects. This explains the \$131 million loan that Japan has extended to help Jordan expand the thermal power station at Aqaba, they said.

Tokyo also follows a policy that "project-specific" aid is tied to Japanese contractors and participation while "non-project" aid is unconditional — meaning that the beneficiary country could use the amount to import non-Japanese goods and services.

Japanese policy also bans extending development loans to countries which receive any cancellation of debts owed to the Japanese government. Grants are not banned, however.

Essentially, it would mean that if Jordan were to seek the write-off of its obligations to the Japanese government then the Kingdom has to be prepared to accept that there would not be any more development loan coming from Japan.

It is along the lines of this philosophy that the Japanese government has promised to make more money available to Jordan while rescheduling part of the Kingdom's debts to Tokyo, officials said.

Mr. Shiojiri, who was prime minister in 1986, issued the order to kidnap Mr. Vanunu, an Israeli citizen, and bring him back to Israel alive, the newspaper said.

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Israel has repeatedly warned that it would not tolerate any Katyusha attacks on its northern flank, and the barrage was the closest to the border in 20 months.

Israel mounted a week-long air, sea and artillery blitz against Lebanon-based guerrillas in July 1993, to curb such assaults. At least 147 people, mostly Lebanese, were killed and 500 wounded in that onslaught.

Israeli tanks and howitzers responded to Friday's assault with a barrage on six villages facing the central sector of the occupied enclave, which Israel calls "sector zone," the sources said.

The targets were Zawtar Gharibah, Zawtar, Sharikhah, Kantara, Kabrikha, Majdal Silim and Wadi Shouki, said the Lebanese sources.

They said the Israelis suspected the Katyushas were fired by guerrillas of Hezbollah from bases around these villages.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Meanwhile, U.N. explosives experts safely dismantled an anti-personnel mine in the southern village of Yater where a mine blast last week wounded three Nepalese soldiers. U.N. officers said Yater is a traditional Hezbollah stronghold.

In another development, police said Friday two Syrian brothers were killed in Israeli artillery bombardment of suspected Hezbollah bases on the eastern edge of the security zone.

They said Jumaa Osman Mahsous, 28, died Thursday night in a hospital in Nasraya, on the foothills of Mount Hermon. His brother, Radwan Osman Mahsous, 30, had been instantly killed in the barrage several hours earlier.

A third Syrian worker was wounded when the howitzer shell hit the construction site where the two brothers worked.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taiwan leader planning trip to Jordan — report

TAIPEI (AFP) — President Lee Teng-Hui is to visit several Middle Eastern countries in early April in another round of his "vacation diplomacy," the mass-circulation United Daily News reported Friday. Mr. Lee was scheduled to leave on April 1 and make a transit stop in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on his way to Jordan, the paper said, adding that he might also visit Israel. Taiwan does not have diplomatic relations with any Middle East states but has trade offices in the UAE, Jordan and Israel. It lost its last ally in the Middle East — Saudi Arabia — in 1990 when Riyadh switched recognition to Beijing. Both the presidential office and the foreign ministry here denied knowledge of the planned trip, reported to be made during the five-day spring vacation. The Middle East trip follows Mr. Lee's two overseas visits in which he "vacationed" in some countries that did not have official ties with Taiwan but instead recognised China. He has travelled to Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, which recognise Beijing, and to Nicaragua, Costa Rica and South Africa to strengthen diplomatic ties.

TMA ground crew strike over pay benefits

BEIRUT (R) — Ground crew of Lebanon's national cargo carrier Trans Mediterranean Airlines (TMA) staged a 12-hour strike on Friday over pay benefits, Beirut Airport sources said. They said the 400 ground workers went on strike at noon to protest what they said were threats by the company's management to fire the president and secretary-general of the TMA's workers' syndicate. Mohammad Qabalan and Ghassan Ghosn have been pressing the management to meet the workers' demands for pay benefits related to the increasing cost of living, the sources added. TMA's 100 pilots have not joined the ground crew in the strike.

Egyptian needs fire brigade to go to hospital

CAIRO (R) — Mahrous Mohamoud, 45 years old and 400 kilogrammes in weight, left his flat in Alexandria for the first time in seven years on Thursday — with the help of 10 firemen, three officers, two stretchers and the neighbours. The fire brigade in the Egyptian city had to widen the door to get Mr. Mohamoud out so he could go to hospital for treatment for elephantiasis, government newspaper said on Friday. Mr. Mohamoud's wife Sabah said he also had a large appetite. "A single meal is five loaves of bread, plus rice and pasta. He never gets bored of eating," she told the daily Al Jumhuria.

Police dies after attack in Minya

MINYA (AFP) — A policeman died Friday after an attack by militants in which two other policemen were seriously wounded in the troubled Minya region of southern Egypt. Police said three militants fired at Ali Mohammad Sabir, 23, and his colleagues Thursday as they guarded a building in Beni Mazar, some 250 kilometres south of Cairo. The attackers fled after stealing the policemen's guns, the police said. The latest death raised to 687 the number of people killed in unrest since militants unleashed violent campaign in March 1992 aimed at toppling the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak.

Jews cannot be trusted, Imam tells Arafat

JERICHO (AFP) — A Muslim leader told Yasser Arafat during Friday prayers here that he should not place his trust in the Jew. "They never honour their commitments," said Sheikh Abdul Salam Abu Shreidem, head of the religious affairs ministry in the Palestinian self-rule authority. Mr. Arafat was visibly annoyed by the sermon, which continued despite signals from his entourage to the Imam to soften the tone. "The Jews killed the prophets before and are killing the innocents today," Sheikh Abdul Salam said. Seeking support in the Holy Koran, the Imam added: "Those who reach accords with them are their allies, even if they are dressed as Arabs."

Violence flares in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas fired salvos of Katyusha rockets close to Israel's northern border Friday, provoking an Israeli tank and artillery bombardment, security sources said.

At least nine Katyushas crashed before dawn about 600 metres from the Israeli frontier near the villages of Homs and Marakaba in an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon, the sources said.

Israel has repeatedly warned that it would not tolerate any Katyusha attacks on its northern flank, and the barrage was the closest to the border in 20 months.

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Israeli tanks and howitzers responded to Friday's assault with a barrage on six villages facing the central sector of the occupied enclave, which Israel calls "sector zone," the sources said.

The targets were Zawtar Gharibah, Zawtar, Sharikhah, Kantara, Kabrikha, Majdal Silim and Wadi Shouki, said the Lebanese sources.

They said the Israelis suspected the Katyushas were fired by guerrillas of Hezbollah from bases around these villages.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

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A third Syrian worker was wounded when the howitzer shell hit the construction site where the two brothers worked.



GORE IN JERICHO: U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat applaud as Nabil Shatah of the PLO (right) and an unidentified U.S. official end the signing of an economical

agreement between the two sides in Jericho on Friday. Mr. Gore announced that the U.S. will give the Palestinians a \$65 million aid-package, mainly for Gaza (AFP photo)

Peres ordered Vanunu abduction

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres ordered the 1986 kidnapping of nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu by Mossad agents including a blonde woman called "Cindy," newspaper reported

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A third Syrian worker was wounded when the howitzer shell hit the construction site where the two brothers worked.

The interior Ministry described the report as "a particularly grave disinformation operation."

Mr. Vanunu, who worked at the top secret Dimona nuclear centre in southern Israel, has been kept in solitary confinement since his kidnapping. He is now aged 40.

The Sunday Times reported that a blonde Mossad agent called "Cindy" lured Mr. Vanunu to Rome, where he was seized by other Israeli agents, drugged and taken on board an Israeli freighter, the Tapuz, moored off the port of La Spezia.

Two agents kept Mr. Vanunu bound up in the hold of the Panamanian-flagged ship during the week-long journey which included a detour to Marseilles, Haaretz reported.

Sailors interviewed by Israeli newspapers said Mr. Vanunu was brought by motor boat to the vessel, accompanied by a Hebrew speaking blonde woman and two other Mossad agents.

The transfer was conducted in secrecy and the sailors were told to stay in their cabins. But they were annoyed by Cindy's arrogant behaviour during the voyage, the newspaper reported.

"She was a real nuisance," said an ex-sailor. "She treated us as the lowest of the low, demanded meals from us whenever it suited her and took three showers a day even though there was a water shortage on the ship."

The crew members' names were not revealed, in line with Israeli censorship rules.

When Mr. Vanunu was being taken to court by the Shin Bet, he managed to show journalists the palm of his hand on which he had written that he was kidnapped in Rome.

Friday's report was the latest instance in which the censor's powers were challenged and reflected increasing liberalisation of the flow of information once considered state secrets.

Although the censor has been firm to challenges by local media recently, especially to release the name of the new head of Israel's internal secret service network,

the Shin Bet, computerised information networks have made it increasingly difficult to keep such information under wraps.

The new Shin Bet chief, who in Israeli media can only be referred to as "K," appeared in a mid-March message on Internet, the world-wide computer network.

Anir Oren, Israel television's military commentator said the censor should be removed, in line with Israeli censorship rules.

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